

Press Release
For Immediate Release

Governor fills key budget positions

INDIANAPOLIS (January 25, 2005) — Governor Mitch Daniels today appointed Melissa Henson and Cristopher Johnston to two key positions within the Office of Management and Budget.

Henson, who grew up in Logansport, will be the commissioner of the Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF) and Johnston, of Crown Point, will be the executive director of the new Department of Government Efficiency and Financial Planning.

“Melissa will work to see that local property tax dollars are spent carefully. Cris and his new team will flush out waste by roaming the agencies and asking all of the ‘why’ questions as well as spreading best practices as they find or devise them,” said Daniels.

“In Melissa, we found an outstanding career employee of state government who is ready to step into a position of enormous importance,” said Daniels. “In Cris, we see yet another successful private sector success who feels called to take part in Indiana’s comeback.”

Henson has worked in state and local government throughout most of her career. She has been the director of the budget division for the DLGF since 2003, where she helped guide all Indiana counties, cities, towns and townships through the property tax and administration process. She has also served on the State Board of Tax Commissioners.

Henson will immediately begin to guide and develop the review of school building projects in accordance with Daniels’ executive order 05-19, which calls for the DLGF to develop additional guidance for school districts to ensure that building projects are structured to carefully consider academic objectives.

Johnston served as chief deputy treasurer for the state from 1988 to 1992. He was responsible for the oversight of investment activities, banking relationships and legislative matters. Most recently, Johnston had led the government finance unit within public sector services for Crowe Chizek, a provider of assurance, consulting, risk management, tax and technology services.

“Melissa’s experience with local government units will be an outstanding asset,” said Charles Schalliol, director of the Office of Management and Budget. “Cris will be leading one of the most exciting and challenging areas of state government – creating the efficiencies and synergies we must achieve to meet Governor Daniels’ ambitious objectives.”

Henson and Johnston will report to Schalliol.